

West Midlands Freight Council – Minutes of 16 January 2019

Minutes of the West Midlands Freight Council held on 16 January 2019
Nailcote Hall, Nailcote Lane, CV7 7DE

Chair

Dave Rowlands

Wincanton

Council Member

Tim Newton
Paul Simpson
Jim Falconer
Dave Pointon
Robin Tate
Nathan Taylor-Allkins
Mark Walton
Karl Wilshaw
Chris Paul
Richard Ellithorne
Clive Partridge
Adam Purshall
Tracey Wetton
Rach Bullen
Lee Mehmet
Ross Lockett
Natalie Burrows
Dug Dudley
Kevin King
Gary King
Richard Brown
Michael Collins
Linda McGlinchey
Warren Adshead
Adam Williams
Robert Gwynn
Nick Marshall
David Higgs
Anna Griffin
Jade Herald
Phil Hughes
Paul Taylor
Julie Davies
Mark Smith
Andy Ray
Kevin Cummins
Eddie Parker
Daniel King
Ema Jones

Siemens
Smiths Concrete
Ryder Ltd.
Ryder Ltd.
Yusen Logistics
Woodfines Solicitors
Severn Trent Water
Travis Perkins
E.H. Smith
BMF
AS Miles Consulting Ltd.
Bibby Distribution
BT Fleet
Cadent Gas
CMG Recovery
Advance Compliance
NGV Network
The AA
Hermes
Sainsbury's
Fly By Nite
Simmonds Transport
Sainsbury's
Aspray 24
Aspray 24
Hermes UK
Cobley Transport
A.F. Blakemore + Sons
Culina Group
Enigma Industrial Services
Interserve Plc.
Morgan Sindall
Amey
Aldi Stores Ltd.
Travis Perkins
Birmingham City Council
Arval
Unipart Logistics
Warwickshire County Council

Guest Speaker

Linda Sullivan

Coventry City Council

FTA Staff

Chris Yarsley
Denise Beedell
Jon Brewer
Jessamine Osborn

Apologies and Minutes

Apologies were recorded, and the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as the true record of the meeting. The meeting was reminded of FTA's policy on the conduct of meetings on commercial confidentiality.

Matters Arising

Members were given a report on the discussions at UK Council on Thursday 7 February.

Secretary's Report

Members were given an update on the following points:

- MAC Webinars – members were informed that Webinars would now replace Free Briefings through the year.
- MRN Review – members were given an update on the latest developments, following FTA submission to consultation paper.
- FORS Review – members were given an update on developments as the concession for FORS comes up for renewal and what FTA has fed into the review, to ensure real separation between standard setting and commercial operation of the scheme.
- Direct Vision Standard (DVS) – members were updated on the latest on implementation of DVS in London.
- HGV Testing – members were updated on the latest developments between FTA and DVSA on the issue of vehicle testing and how well DVSA is performing.
- EU rules for vans – members were updated on news that elements of Operator Licensing will be extended to vans operating greater than 2.8tonnes, following amendments to the EU Regulation.

Presentation from Coventry City Council (CCC) – Linda Sullivan, Programme Manager

Members received a presentation from CCC on their plans for action to achieve compliance with air quality standards by 2024, with actions starting in 2022. The city is in the second tier of UK cities required to achieve compliance and Coventry does not believe that a chargeable Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is the best solution for the city. Its research showed that diesel cars were the biggest contributor to poor air quality among all vehicles.

The city was expecting to submit a plan to DEFRA for approval that considered other solutions such as certain traffic management measures, including a limited HGV ban, and internal fleet upgrades that would achieve compliance with the targets. CCC's Cabinet was due to meet in February to discuss the Business Case to be adopted by the city and then submitted to DEFRA.

Vehicle Operator Licensing (VOL) – Priorities for development

Members had a discussion on the use of the VOL system and what they thought about it. Generally, there was a positive feedback to their experiences however the main issue that was wished to be changed was Schedule IV changes. There was general happiness with Transport Manager changes.

Members would wish to be told when updates have been performed as they only discover new operational functionality when they log in.

Ultra-low and zero emission roads/zones

Members were given an update on developments on ultra-low and zero emission roads and zones that were appearing across the country. Members were not aware of any such developments in the West Midlands region. There was a desire to have more joined up work between local authorities to ensure that compliant fleets could be used in all parts of the country. Members also gave experiences of issues surrounding the take-up of vehicles that would be compliant with these zones and also in general, especially on the expansion of the number of charging points available for commercial vehicles.

Coastal shipping and port disruption

There was not much information from members on this agenda item, as expected, except one observation from Travis Perkins, who explained that high port costs in Cardiff pushed loads off waterborne freight to road services from east coast.

There was no new reported disruption in container traffic, following earlier issues at Felixstowe Port where containers were diverted or tractor units were turned away due to congestion.

Brexit preparedness

Members were invited to give examples of how they were preparing their businesses in advance of Brexit. The issue of warehousing was highlighted by several members. The ECMT permit issue was also considered a significant issue for international members, due to the lack of permits available. Other members raised concerns about the availability of vehicle parts for maintenance that could impact on purely domestic fleets as parts were not available when needed, due to just-in-time delivery to maintenance providers.

Urban Centre Framework consultation – Birmingham City Council (BCC)

Members were asked to look at and respond to this consultation from BCC to ensure that the voice of freight was heard as plans for urban development were advanced within the city and wider communities.

Elections of representatives and deputies for UK Council

Gary King, Robin Tate, Eddie Parker, and Chris Paul were named as representatives, along with the Chair, to attend UK Council.

Any Other Business

- Discussion on FTA Yearbook – members fed back their views on the Yearbook to aid future improvement.

- Driver CPC – members reported having issues finding out the amount of banked hours of periodic training that drivers have completed, especially when hiring new drivers. This is increasing in importance with the September deadline approaching. One member reported having to survey 3000 drivers.
- Testing – members raised the issue of ATF sign-offs, with some overwriting the printed document with handwritten corrections. There was also the usual comments regarding the quality of the testing staff at test stations.
- Recording of Domestic Hours on an app – members were keen to know when this could happen. This would require a decision to be taken within the Department for Transport.

Date and time of next meeting

0900 on Thursday 4 April 2019.